

Immanuel News



January 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

"It is okay" is a phrase that has bothered me because we often misuse it. To say to someone "it is okay," you mean do not worry about it or it is not a problem... etc. I have noticed that people express their condolences to a grieving person by saying "it is okay." By saying this statement to a person in crisis, you make that person feel like one's suffering is not a big deal. It also indicates that you do not care. It becomes socially acceptable to say the phrase "it is okay," even though your life is treating you unjustly. I recall one of my visits to one of the hospitals in Wausau, where one of my parishioners was in deep pain. A nurse responded to his suffering by saying "it is okay." I was surprised by her response. I looked at her and said, "it is not okay."

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** From the Pastor's Desk
- 4** Anniversaries & Birthdays
- 5** Caring Corner
- Calendar and Worship Assistant Pullout

Our Mission: Immanuel Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers committed to live and share God's love by serving our community and the world.

Our Vision: We gather as believers who seek to grow in faith through worship, education and welcoming fellowship. We seek to share God's love with the community through word and deed. We extend Christ's love in service to our community and our world.

Pastor's Hours

Pastor Niveen is in her church office working, Monday – Thursday, 9am-3pm.

She visits Homebound Parishioners on Wednesday.

Friday is Sermon Day.

Saturday is Pastor's Sabbath.

Please email Pastor Niveen or call the church office to set up a time for a meeting.



✠ **Noisy Offering** - Save all your change for the first Sunday of each month. Social Concerns uses the money to help feed the needy in our area. If you have questions, please contact Marge Warner.

✠ **Holy Communion** is celebrated the first and third Sunday of each month. Please remember to sign the Friendship/Attendance pad that is in each pew when you are taking communion. This information is entered into the office computer.



Address: 630 Adams Street, Wausau, WI 54403
Phone: (715) 842-3644

Website: WWW.IMMANUELWAUSAU.ORG

Office Hours: 9am-3pm Mon.-Thurs. Closed Friday.

Why are we afraid to admit our pain and suffering? Why does it become socially acceptable to hide our emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual distress? There are many reasons that we may disguise our emotional pain, but in doing so, we deepen our pain.

Suffering may be our daily reality and is a part of living in a broken world. It is not okay to put a mask on our face to hide our pain. Jesus incarnated to be part of our suffering. He did not say to our suffering "it is okay." Because our suffering was important to him, Jesus willingly entered our suffering and made it his burden. He carried our pain to redeem us. On the cross, Jesus did not say "it is okay," but "it is fulfilled." Jesus' grace enters our sufferings to help us see him working in our struggles. Jesus can sympathize with our pain. He indeed suffered. That is why he understands our suffering.

Jesus encourages us to carry each other's burden, not to overlook one another's suffering. As we are starting a New Year, let us reflect on how to bear each other's burden and help each other to deepen our faith. I encourage you to express your pain verbally. Please, do not hesitate to talk to me about your challenges. I am always willing to listen and to support you.



Yours in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras

Immanuel Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting will be January 27th immediately following the 9:00 am worship service. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Organ Fund: Work is complete on the organ. The company has been paid slightly more than half, with the balance due by the end of June. Any contribution toward the organ fund would be most welcome. Your check can be made out to Immanuel. Be sure to list on your check that your donation is toward the organ fund.

Community Dinner - Social Concerns will be serving dinner on Sunday, January 27th, at the First Presbyterian Church. Volunteers are needed to help prepare the food, serve, clean-up and bring salads and desserts. Please watch for sign-up sheets in the Narthex ~~ Marge W., Social Concerns

"Souper Bowl" of Caring Food Drive Challenge - Watch for more details. Pick up an extra food item when you go shopping. We will be challenging other churches and all proceeds will go to the Neighbor's Place.

Your 2018 Year End Tax Statements may be picked up starting January 17th, 2019. They will be available during office hours Monday - Thursday or in the Narthex on Sundays. All statements not picked up will be mailed on Monday, January 29th.

Volunteers Needed for Hosting Coffee Hour: ILC will host the Wisconsin River Valley Conference Pastors' Meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2019.

**Article Deadline for
February Newsletter:
Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019**

Immanuel Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship not only makes the journey endurable and even enjoyable; it also helps keep us healthy.

Men's Discussion Group - Al Solomonson

The Men's Discussion Group meets on Thursday mornings at 7:30 A.M. in the Koinonia. We socialize a bit with coffee and donuts after which we watch a short video pertinent to Christian history or issues. We then discuss the issues presented in the video. This year the topic will be "Great Figures in the New Testament." The session usually ends at 8:30 or a little after. We typically have seven in attendance. Two are non-members. We welcome additions to our group.

Altar Guild - Dwala Smail

Altar Guild members are encouraged to stay after the service on 1/13/19 to put away the Christmas decorations.

Dorcas Circle - Claudette Harring

You are always welcome to join our group. Please email Jackie at info@immanuelwausau.org for more information.

All Women of Immanuel - Vonnie Solomonson

You are always welcome to join our group. Please email Jackie at

♦ **Coffee Fellowship** signup sheets for 2019 are posted in Fellowship Hall.

♦ **2019 Altar Flower Chart** is in the Narthex for you to sign up for altar flowers. Thank you Dwala!

Senior Home Safety Program

Are you afraid of falling in your home? Would you feel safer with grab bars in your bathroom or hand rails to help keep your balance? Accidental falls are one of the leading causes of injury and death in people over 65 worldwide.

Faith in Action of Marathon County will provide a free home safety assessment and install the necessary home safety enhancements for area seniors. Our trained and skilled volunteers will help you to feel safer in your home with the installation of grab bars and/or hand railings to allow you to live more safely and independently in your home.

If you, or someone you know could benefit from home safety enhancements, please call Faith in Action of Marathon County at 715-848-8783 to discuss.

Presentation Volunteers Needed - We are looking for volunteers to help prepare only the Gospels and Psalms portions of the presentations (on the TV screen in church) for Sunday worship services. This information is done thru Microsoft Office PowerPoint. This can be done from your home or at church on the computer. Most of the work will be a copy and paste, Please talk to Jackie, our Admin. Assistant if you are interested in helping. Training is provided.

2019 Pledges - It is not too late. You can still turn in your 2019 Pledge Cards. You may drop them in the offering plate, mail them to the church or stop in during the week and drop them off. There are extras in the church office and Narthex.

The pledges are used to help the council plan the 2019 budget for ILC.

Thank you to those who have already completed their cards.

Immanuel Lutheran Church Blood Drive will be held at the church on Saturday, January 19, 2019 from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Call 877-232-4376 to make an appointment.



Happy Birthday

January

01/03 Dan Dellenbach
 01/04 Jennifer Schafer
 01/05 Dustin Sedlar
 01/06 Sarah Doede
 01/06 Susan Schwede
 01/07 Jason Taylor
 01/08 Angela Lenselink
 01/08 Michael Steltenpohl
 01/09 Harlan Grinde
 01/10 Elaine Grinde
 01/12 Jeffrey Burk
 01/12 Connie Lewitzke
 01/13 Megan Bickford
 01/14 Clair Baker
 01/15 Linda Hulstrom
 01/18 Jamie Rice-Heckendorf
 01/22 Marge Warner
 01/25 Scott Schafer
 01/26 Vern Diestelhorst
 01/29 Corey Busche

Anniversary Wishes to the Special Couples

The following couples are celebrating
their Wedding Anniversary

January

1/1	Jerry & Judy Nickolai	36 years
1/7	Bruce & Kathryn Knox	43 years
1/20	Jim & Pat Stolen	51 years
1/24	Bob & Sue Doede	43 years
1/31	Billie & Clair Baker	38 years

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4



Jerrilynn Duxbury
10/30/41 – 11/29/18

Joyce Strasser
3/10/31 – 12/19/18

Dolores Riege
1/25/29 – 12/24/18

**Thank you to all the
children in Sunday School
for their lovely Christmas
Program. It takes a lot of
work, and we appreciate it.**

**Thank you, Santa (Bob
Henning) for your time and
gift donations.**

**Thank you for the Choir and
Hand Bells for their
beautiful music during the
Holiday Season.**

**Thank you, Judy Kort, for
the beautiful organ music
and for filling in as organist
for our funerals.**

**Thank you, Altar Guild, for
all your work preparing for
Christmas. The church
looked festive.**

RINGING FOR CHRIST

Immanuel Bell Choir practice
is Tuesdays at 5:30pm-
6:30pm.

We would love to have new
members.

You may hear us play the last
Sunday each month. Mark
your calendars!

We invite anyone interested to
come and check us out on
Tuesday evenings 5:30 - 6:30.
Any questions, contact
Joanne Diestelhorst at 715-
573-7379



TV Worship Services

Charter Cable Channel 980
5:45 pm Tuesday & 9:15 am Thursday
or online:

Wausau Area Access Media:
waam.viebit.com

▶ (Left side, scroll to Immanuel
Lutheran)


**The January - March issues of
"Portals of Prayer" have arrived.
They will be in the Narthex and
Gathering Room soon.**



Coffee Fellowship. There are
open dates for 2019.



Caring Corner

Psalm 71:9 "Do not cast me off in the time of old"  Here are our church friends who are not able to come to church as often as they would like. They would love to hear from you or receive cards in the mail.

Please call the church office if someone should be added to list. 

Facility

Bell Tower Residence

1500 O'Day St
Merrill, WI 54452

► **Barb Peterson**, Rm 209

Our House Assisted Living

220 West Campus Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

► **Joan Lind**, Rm 7

Riverview Terrace

540 E. Thomas St.
Wausau, WI 54401

► **Joyce Lohrey**, #207

Colonial Manor

1010 E. Wausau Ave
Wausau, WI 54403

► **Norm Winterhoff**

Primrose Retirement Community

2100 Townline Rd
Wausau, WI 54403

► **Thelma Bursik**, Apt #101

Primrose Memory Care

7704 Franciscan Way
Weston, WI 54467

► **Carol Hettinga**, Rm 8

Home

Glen & Carolyn Viergutz

N114 W17117 Cove Ct
Germantown, WI 53022

Pat Stricker

1403 Stark Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Barb Rajek

314 S. 13th Street
Wausau, WI 54403

Dale & Ann Kurth

2806 Polzer Drive
Wausau, WI 54401

Judy Blanchfield

1805 Mathie Street
Wausau, WI 54403

AARP Foundation FREE 2018 Income Tax Preparation for Low-to-moderate income taxpayers.

Emphasis on age 60+

Appointments Required—call 715-298-5734; January 17-April 5, 2018; Weekdays 9am-1pm to Schedule

UW Extension, 212 River Dr., Wausau: Tues. & Wed. 7:45am—12:15pm; Feb. 5-April 11

Merrill Enrichment Center, 303 N Sales St, Merrill: Thurs. Feb. 14 & Thurs. March 14; 9am-2pm

Mosinee Methodist Church, Community Room, 607 13th St, Mosinee, Thurs. March 21; 10:30am-1:30pm

APPOINTMENT REQUIRED. NO WALK-INS ALLOWED

The following locations accept walk-ins:

Kannenberg Plaza, 1240 Merrill Ave., Wausau Thurs. Feb 21 8am-noon

Riverview Towers, 500 Grand Ave., Wausau Thurs. Feb 28 Noon-3pm

Upcoming Event: Panel Dialogue and Discussion. The moderator will be Rev. Kent Johnson, La Crosse, with panel members: Dr. Mark Asplund, Rabbi Edward Boraz, Sameer Darduk, Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras and Elaine Strite.

Date: Monday, January 14, 2019 at 6:30pm. Cost: \$10.00 – pay at the door

Place: YWCA

Hear from people who have grown up, lived in and/or worked in Israel/Palestine. They will bring context to the search for peace. Bring your questions and enter the dialogue.

COUNCIL MINUTES – November 2019

Immanuel Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting - Nov 19, 2018

Present: President; Bob Henning, V. President: Jamie Rice Heckendorf, Treasurer: Matt Munson, Secretary: Linda Hulstrom, Financial Secretary: Patti Busche, Evangelism, Judi McGill, Social Concerns: Marge Warner, Worship: Judy Kort, and Pastor Niveen

Absent: Education: Judy Nickolai, Property: Jerry Nickolai.

1. Devotions by Jamie

2. Call the meeting to order by Bob Henning at 6:45pm

3. Church officer reports:

a. Secretary

i. September Minutes were presented, and Motion made to Accept Minutes by Judi M., 2nd by Patti, Motion approved.

ii. October Minutes were presented, and Motion made to accept Minutes by Judi M., 2nd by Judy K.

b. Treasurer; Matt reviewed Budget Expense report. Payment for Organ Fund was moved to new Organ Fund. Copier wasn't printing so report wasn't complete but he shared Income vs Expenses balance was \$6,908. He also presented the Current Position and Designated Funds report. Motion made by Marge, 2nd by Judi M., to accept October reports for audit.

c. Financial Secretary: Patti reviewed October report. Motion was made by Judi M to accept the October report and hold for audit, 2nd by Jamie. Motion passed.

d. Vice President: Jamie suggested Matt should do Bookkeeping duties in a clearly defined, paid position. Jamie made a Motion to pursue having Matt take on bookkeeping duties in a paid position. 2nd by Judy K, Motion passed with abstained vote from Matt. She also needs to organize a 3-person Audit Committee per the Constitution. Jamie handed out copies of the Constitution and read brief outline as reminder of purpose and function of Council. She noted UW has upcoming training program for Non-Profit organizations.

e. President: no report.

4. Committee Reports

a. Education:

b. Evangelism

c. Properties: No reports.

d. Social Concerns: Marge handed out information on The Free Clinic at Presbyterian Church, Wausau. Noting we are the last town of our size to have a Free Clinic. They're remodeling the downstairs of church and glad to have extra helping hands. This service will be for anyone who doesn't have insurance. Social Concerns will give a donation of \$500 to the Neighbor's Place for the Holiday season. She stated ILC had received a "Thank You" from the Women's Community. The Christmas Blessing box delivery is TBD. The Neighbor's Place received 77 pounds from ILC in October. Please add to our Mitten Tree, as it will be taken down for December 19th for needy children.

e. Worship; Judy K reported over \$13,000. in Organ Fund. There will be a "Blue Service" around Christmas time, everyone is welcome and especially those who have deaths of family or friends in the past year. She also noted the Endowment Committee has Funds in escrow for Organ repair, if needed.

5. Pastor's Report: On December 9th after Christmas program the children will be seeing the movie, The Star. We will be celebrating Mel Sandquist's 98th Birthday at Coffee Hour. She also noted the Synod suggested she have a coach, if we don't go with Seeds for Growth program.

6. Old Business:

a. Motion by Linda to change provider to Spectrum for cost efficiency, based on Phyllis past report. Motion 2nd by Judi M, Motion passed.

7. New Business:

i. A Budget Meeting for Council will be December 16th at 2:00.

8. Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Prayerfully submitted by Linda Hulstrom, Council Secretary

* Minutes approved at Council Meeting 12-16-18, Motion by Patti, 2nd by Judi M. Motion passed.

Immanuel Lutheran Church				
2018 Income vs Expenses				
Month	Income Received	Expenses Paid	Notes	Difference
January	\$13,488	\$6,473		\$7,015
February	\$12,787	\$18,836		(\$6,049)
March	\$12,767	\$19,240		(\$6,473)
April	\$19,409	\$12,680		\$6,729
May	\$17,879	\$14,396		\$3,483
June	\$13,955	\$4,244		\$9,711
July	\$13,701	\$18,598		(\$4,897)
August	\$12,784	\$14,540		(\$1,756)
September	\$15,319	\$10,516		\$4,803
October	\$10,528	\$16,187		(\$5,659)
November	\$13,722	\$11,882		\$1,840
December				\$0
Totals	\$156,339	\$147,592		\$8,747

Community Shabbat You are invited!

Mount Sinai congregation is hosting its annual community Shabbat on Friday, January 11, 2019 at 7:30pm. Address is 901 W. Randolph Street, Wausau. (Behind Wausau West High School)

For friends, neighbors, teachers and church groups. Rabbi Boraz of Mount Sinai will model a Shabbat (Sabbath/Saturday Service) service for guests ... dessert and fellowship will follow the service. Please RSVP by Wednesday, January 9, 2019 to (715) 675-2560 or email kelliem@mtsinaiwisconsin.org.

A signup sheet is in the Narthex.



► Sign up to receive...

ELCA Hunger Information

<http://www.elca.org/hunger>

ELCA Advocacy Alerts

<http://www.elca.org/advocacy>

LOPPW – Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Wisconsin

<http://www.lopep.org/about-us/current-priorities/>

Update: The Mitten Tree – The Social Concerns Committee has put the tree up in the Narthex. Thank you for your donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves and sweaters. You may knit, crochet or purchase the items. The tree will be up until the end of January. The items collected will be taken to the Neighbor's Place. If you have questions, contact Marge Warner.

Meet our new Bookkeeper, Matt Munson.

Hello. I am Matt Munson and I'm taking on the bookkeeper duties for Immanuel, where I am a member. I am from Wausau and completed high school at Wausau East. I then went to Augsburg University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where I obtained a BA in Business Administration. Upon graduation, I came back to Wausau and worked for a few years before moving to Denver, CO. After 4 years or so in Denver, I moved back to Wausau and have worked in the health insurance and health care finance industry since 2004. I obtained my MBA (Master's in Business Administration), with emphasis in accounting, in May of 2018. I received my MBA from Upper Iowa University. I am also the treasurer of the John Marshall PTO which expires in June of 2019. I currently work in the finance department at Aspirus. My parents reside in Wausau, while my two brothers live in Chicago and Kansas City area(s) respectively. I look forward to working with everyone and getting to know more folks.

Sincerely,

Matt



January 2019
630 Adams St
Wausau, WI 54403

IMMANUEL News

NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
Wausau WI
Permit 6235

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Immanuel Lutheran Church
immanuelwausau.org

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarra
Email: pastor@immanuelwausau.org | (715) 842-3644

Administrative Assistant: Jackie Loos
Email: info@immanuelwausau.org

Bookkeeper: Matthew Munson
Email: treasurer@immanuelwausau.org

Organists: Judy Kort & Adele Bluhm
Pianist: Marino Taylor
Handbell Choir Director: Joanne Diestelhorst
Choir Director: Kay Pope
Custodians: Paul Smith and Matt Munson
Sunday School: Judy Nickolai

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Property: Jerry Nickolai
Education: Judy Nickolai
Evangelism: Judi McGill
Worship: Judy Kort
Youth: Vacant
Stewardship: Phyllis Hustedt
Social Concerns: Marge Warner

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Bob Henning
Vice President: Jamie Rice-Heckendorf
Treasurer: Matthew Munson
Financial Secretary: Patti Busche
Secretary: Linda Hulstrom

Scheduled Meetings

1/8/19	6:00 pm	Executive Committee
1/8/19	6:35pm	Council Meeting
1/27/19	10:30am	Annual Meeting

Our Sister Church

Lobatla Parish,
c/o Rev. G.M. Nkale
P.O. Box 160, Motswedi, 2870
Republic of South Africa